THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) No, Sir. However, a representation was received *direct* from the Chairman, Coir Board, in September 1954, requesting the taxation on poramboke lands in Malabar used for retting coconut husks and the licence fees levied by the District Board might be reduced.

(*b*) The Government considered that the existing rates required no revision. The Collector of Malabar was asked to take into account the representation made by the Chairman of the Coir Board while fixing the rate of rent for fasli 1365. As regards licence fees, the Chairman was informed that it was open to the District Board to reduce the rate if considered necessary.

Tirunelveli Conspiracy Case

* 2647 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of political prisoners in jail who are connected with the Tirunelveli Conspiracy Case; and

(*b*) the number of prisoners who are sick among them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Nine prisoners concerned in the Tirunelveli Communist Conspiracy Case are undergoing imprisonment in jail.

(*b*) Two.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House the following message, dated the 29th September 1955, received from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

" In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I return the Madras Commercial Crops Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 30 of 1955), as passed by the Council on the 29th September 1955 without any recommendation and signed by me."

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID IN NIDIYENGA AND SREEKANDAPURAM VILLAGES IN CHIRAKKAL TALUK.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a notice from Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar calling the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Health to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., prevalence of typhoid fever in Nidiyenga and Sreekandapuram villages in Chirakkal taluk. Sri Narayanan Nambiar may now explain his point.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Mr. Speaker, the villages concerned, viz., Nidiyenga and Sreekandapuram villages in Chirakkal taluk had an attack of typhoid fever. In this connexion, I wish to submit that it is an area where there are no medical facilities at all. There are no hospitals, no dispensaries or medical